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**PHOTO NEWS RELEASE:**

**Rapid City Guard unit conducts warrior land navigation training**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – More than 40 members of the Rapid City based Joint Force Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard, participated in combat land navigation training on Sunday, Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid.

The event combined land navigation with a capture-the-flag paintball competition with the purpose to hone basic Soldier skills and develop cohesive teams.

“The event was a blast,” said Maj. Todd Bartunek, commander of Joint Force Headquarters. “It was great training and an overall fun event for the troops.”

Bartunek and 1st Sgt. Diann Deyo, the senior enlisted Soldier in the unit, said that anytime they can make training fun it pays off.

“Soldiers thrive on this type of challenge,” said Deyo. “When they have great training, they look forward to coming to drill the next month.”

Photo Cut Lines:



**081005-A-8551W-0224:** RAPID CITY, S.D. – Sergeant 1st Class Michelle Jennings and Sgt. Michael Reiprich (right), both of Rapid City, plot their route during the combat land navigation course held this weekend at West Camp Rapid. Soldiers had to find a number of marked points on the course, defend their flag, and try to capture the other three teams' flags while avoiding being hit by a paintball. More than 40 members of the Rapid City based Joint Force Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard, participated in combat land navigation training on Sunday, Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid. The event combined land navigation with a capture-the-flag paintball competition with the purpose to hone basic Soldier skills and develop cohesive teams. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081005-A-8551W-0224.JPG>



**081005-A-8551W-0231:** RAPID CITY, S.D. – Staff Sgt. Shane Hoenke, Rapid City, moves with his team to their first point during the combat land navigation course held this weekend at West Camp Rapid. Soldiers had to find a number of marked points on the course, defend their flag, and try to capture the other three teams' flags while avoiding being hit by a paintball. More than 40 members of the Rapid City based Joint Force Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard, participated in combat land navigation training on Sunday, Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid. The event combined land navigation with a capture-the-flag paintball competition with the purpose to hone basic Soldier skills and develop cohesive teams. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/081005-A-8551W-0231.JPG>



**081005-A-8551W-0251:** RAPID CITY, S.D. – Sergeant Brian Morgan (right) and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Scharn, both of Rapid City, attempt to outflank and opposing team during the combat land navigation course held this weekend at West Camp Rapid. Soldiers had to find a number of marked points on the course, defend their flag, and try to capture the other three teams' flags while avoiding being hit by a paintball. More than 40 members of the Rapid City based Joint Force Headquarters, South Dakota National Guard, participated in combat land navigation training on Sunday, Oct. 5, at West Camp Rapid. The event combined land navigation with a capture-the-flag paintball competition with the purpose to hone basic Soldier skills and develop cohesive teams. (National Guard photo by Maj. Orson Ward)(RELEASED)

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.